



Department of Homeland Security Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 29 August 2005

Current
Nationwide
Threat Level is

ELEVATED
SIGNIFICANT RISK OF
TERRORIST ATTACKS

[For info click here](http://www.dhs.gov/)

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Daily Highlights

- A major transmission line in Southern California shut itself off Thursday because of a faulty sensor, triggering scattered blackouts in the middle of a heat wave, the Associated Press reported. (See item [2](#))
- The Associated Press reports that illegal immigrants threw rocks at a Border Patrol helicopter on the California border, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing when one of the rocks damaged the rotor. (See item [10](#))
- Reuters reports an estimated one million people fled the New Orleans area Sunday night as Hurricane Katrina made its way to shore. (See item [43](#))

DHS Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation and Border Security](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) –

<http://www.esisac.com>]

1. *August 28, Associated Press* — **Hurricane Katrina targeting U.S. oil operations.** With crude oil prices near record levels Hurricane Katrina churned through the Gulf of Mexico Sunday, August 28, shutting down an estimated one million barrels of refining capacity and sharply curbing offshore production throughout the region. The area is crucial to the nation's energy infrastructure—offshore oil and gas production, import terminals, pipeline networks and numerous refining operations throughout southern Louisiana and Mississippi. The impact was

immediate Sunday night when electronic trading resumed on the New York Mercantile Exchange, as crude oil futures spiked \$4.50 per barrel, putting the cost above \$70 for the first time since oil began trading there in 1983. Oil companies evacuated workers and shut down more than 600,000 barrels of daily production in the Gulf. The U.S. has ample crude oil supplies, even if major hurricane destruction trims Gulf oil output and foreign imports, but refining capacity is extraordinarily tight. As a result, prices for gasoline, heating oil, jet fuel and other products could go even higher this week.

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/08/28/D8C95DE00.html>

2. *August 26, Associated Press* — **Sensor glitch caused California power shutdown.** A major transmission line feeding electricity to millions of Southern California customers shut itself off because of a faulty sensor, triggering scattered blackouts in the middle of a heat wave, officials said Friday, August 26. The outages on Thursday, August 25, lasting about 30 minutes, affected about 500,000 Southern California Edison customers in several communities east and south of Los Angeles. "There was an oil flow alarm that went off," said Carol Tucker, a spokesperson for the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, which co-owns the transmission line. "Upon checking into it, we determined that there was no problem with the actual converter-transformer," she said. The sensor was working normally Friday, Tucker said. State energy regulators said further outages were unlikely now that the problem had been identified. The cause of the sensor malfunction remained under investigation. The sensor that malfunctioned monitors the flow of oil inside an electric power transformer north of Los Angeles. When the unit turned itself off, officials were forced to cut power in around the Los Angeles area. The converter is one of two used in the Sylmar station to distribute up to 3,000 megawatts of power imported by California from the Pacific Northwest.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/08/26/AR2005082600308.html>

3. *August 25, Associated Press* — **Scientists try to harness wave energy.** As the price of a barrel of oil continues to surge, scientists are turning to the ocean as a possible source of alternative energy. The potential for harnessing the power of waves has drawn serious study by Oregon State University, federal and state agencies, and communities along the Oregon Coast. "There's a real good chance that Oregon could turn into kind of the focal point in the United States for wave energy development and I think that would be a boon to the economy," said Gary Cockrum, spokesperson for the Central Lincoln People's Utility District. Groups hoping to begin work on experimental technology are considering the International Paper mill site in Gardiner, OR. "There is tremendous potential in the oceans to supply energy for the world," said Annette von Jouanne, an Oregon State electrical engineering professor. "A 10-square-mile wave power plant could supply the entire state of Oregon," said von Jouanne. Money is the biggest obstacle to the project. It will take about \$5 million to complete the project's initial phases, however, the recently passed federal energy bill could reduce much of that burden.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/tech/science/2005-08-25-wave-energy_x.htm

4. *August 25, CBS MarketWatch* — **Tesoro refinery cuts output after fire.** Tesoro Petroleum Corp. cut gasoline production Thursday, August 25, at its 168,000 barrel per day Golden Eagle refinery near San Francisco, CA, following a fire that shut its fluid catalytic cracking unit Wednesday, August 24. The cutback could add further pressure to the tight West Coast gasoline

market, where retail prices are among the highest in the nation. “The unit is not operating. We're investigating what's going to be needed to bring it back online,” said Jon Ballesteros, a refinery spokesperson. The refinery has diverted gasoline production to other units, but Ballesteros would not say how many barrels–per–day have been taken out of production as a result of the fire. The 70,000 barrel–per–day unit is used to convert crude oil into other products, such as gasoline and other distillates. Golden Eagle is a major gasoline and diesel supplier in the San Francisco Bay Area and Northern California.

Source: <http://www.marketwatch.com/news/story.asp?guid=%7b8F303C68-B069-4F5D-98B2-83B5872AF791%7d&siteid=google>

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Chemical Industry and Hazardous Materials Sector

5. *August 26, KY 3 (MO)* — **Train derailment spills hydrogen peroxide in Missouri, nearby homes evacuated.** Emergency crews evacuated about ten homes early Friday, August 26, as a precaution after a train derailed and spilled toxic chemicals nearby. The derailment occurred at about 5 a.m., southeast of Willow Springs, MO, near where the tracks cross a county road. Ten rail cars derailed, including two tankers. The northbound train derailed at a junction in the Burlington Northern–Union Pacific tracks where trains typically go through about once an hour. One of the derailed tankers was full of hydrogen peroxide, while the second one was empty; however, because the second tanker normally carries hydrochloric acid, crews were concerned at the time that it might release fumes, although it didn't. Emergency crews sealed off the area half a mile in each direction. By mid–morning, the county road was reopened to traffic. Hazmat crews worked to dilute the hydrogen peroxide; by 10 a.m., crews had recovered about 55 gallons of hydrogen peroxide.

Source: <http://www.ky3.com/news/1694046.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

Nothing to report.

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Banking and Finance Sector

6. *August 27, The Gainesville Sun (FL)* — **Patients at risk of identity theft.** The apparent theft of a missing laptop computer has put 3,851 patients of University of Florida (UF) physicians at risk for identity theft. On August 1, UF was notified that a computer was stolen from ChartOne, a Boston–based firm that the Health Science Center contracts with to help manage medical records. In the laptop's database were the names, Social Security numbers, dates of birth and medical record numbers for more than 3,000 patients spread over a wide area. In a letter to affected patients dated August 8, UF Privacy Officer Susan Blair wrote, "Although the risk for anyone gaining access to and then using this information is low, reports of identity theft are often in the news." According to Blair, the problem began in late July, when a ChartOne

employee in Gainesville reported trouble with a laptop computer. The company decided to send a new laptop by United Parcel Service (UPS), and loaded it with the information from the patient database before it was shipped. "We know that UPS had it and reportedly delivered it, but did not get a signature for the laptop, which reportedly has disappeared," Blair said.

Source: <http://www.gainesville.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050827/LOCAL/208270336/1078/news>

7. *August 26, Vnunet.com* — **Global phishing outbreak hits four banks.** Four banks have been targeted by phishers in an international attempt at fraud. It is not clear if the phishers are working together, but at least two of the attacks bear strong similarities. Banesto Bank in Spain, Poste Italiane Banca in Italy, the Canadian Bank of Montreal and the Visions Federal Credit Union in the United States have all been targeted. The attacks against the Italian and Canadian banks both use a similar message, that someone has accessed the account from an unusual IP address, and advises customers to check their accounts using the enclosed link. The URL leads to a site in Korea that harvests log-on details. The e-mails targeting Banesto Bank have a similar message but this time the phishing site is located in Singapore, a country not usually associated with phishing. The American attack is local, with the phishing Website hosted within the continental United States.

Source: <http://www.vnunet.com/vnunet/news/2141554/global-phishing-outbreak-hits>

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Transportation and Border Security Sector

8. *August 26, Detroit Free Press* — **Flight safety stretched.** On a weekday just before the strike at Detroit's Metro Airport, the McNamara Terminal's main concourse buzzed with thousands of Northwest Airlines travelers whisking through 78 gates onto more than 350 flights. Only one thing was missing: the watchful eye of a federal safety inspector to monitor the 460 mechanics working on those planes. That day, the lone Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) maintenance inspector assigned to Northwest's Detroit fleet was home on extended sick leave. His stand-in, whose primary specialty is flight control instruments, not maintenance, was 530 miles away in Des Moines, IA, inspecting a Northwest contractor. The FAA has devoted more inspectors to Northwest since the strike began. But the move is temporary. Northwest's fleet is also the industry's oldest. Its planes are an average of 18.4 years old, seven years older than those of the other major carriers, according to BACK Aviation Solutions of New Haven, CT. Roughly a third of Northwest's fleet — DC9s, many built in the 1960s — average 34.4 years. An aging aircraft is not necessarily more dangerous. But older planes require more frequent mechanical checks.

Audit: http://www.freep.com/pdf/2005/faa_audit.pdf

Source: http://www.freep.com/money/business/faa26e_20050826.htm

9. *August 26, Associated Press* — **United gets \$3 billion in exit financing offers.** United Airlines' parent company said Thursday, August 25, it has secured new commitments from banks for up to \$3 billion in debt financing that should enable it to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy by late 2005 or early 2006. While the financing is not yet final, UAL hailed the revised proposals as a strong endorsement of the new business plan it formulated this summer even as the steep increase in fuel prices continues to squeeze carriers' bottom lines. The

commitments from the four financiers — Citibank, JPMorgan Chase & Co., Deutsche Bank and GE Commercial Finance — were disclosed as the Elk Grove Village, Ill.-based airline updated its status in a filing Thursday with federal bankruptcy court. Chief Financial Officer Jake Brace said the fact the lenders are willing to provide more than the \$2.5 billion United sought testifies to the resilience of its new business plan even amid daunting conditions for airlines. Despite its long streak of money-losing, airline analyst Mike Mooney said United remains a worthy investment risk for the banks because of several strengths: its international route network, strong U.S. hub structure, long-term labor deals in place and the shedding of its multibillion-dollar pension obligations.

Source: http://www.usatoday.com/travel/flights/2005-08-25-united-financing_x.htm

10. *August 26, Associated Press* — **Rocks thrown at Border Patrol chopper.** Illegal immigrants threw rocks at a Border Patrol helicopter, forcing the pilot to make an emergency landing when one of the rocks damaged the rotor, the agency said. Neither the pilot nor the Border Patrol observer was injured. The A-Star helicopter was two miles west of the U.S. Port of Entry in Andrade, CA, on Tuesday, August 23, when a group of immigrants began throwing rocks at the aircraft. One baseball-sized rock gashed the rotor, forcing the pilot to land nearby, said Michael Gramley, spokesperson for the Border Patrol sector based in Yuma, AZ. Gramley said he did not know how high the helicopter was hovering when it was struck, but he said it was being repaired and is expected back in service soon. After the incident, 17 people were apprehended for illegally crossing the border, and two of them were being investigated for smuggling. Ten immigrants evaded capture. The investigation into the rock-throwing was continuing.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Website: <http://www.cbp.gov/>

Source: <http://www.breitbart.com/news/2005/08/25/D8C71P6O0.html>

11. *August 26, Associated Press* — **California governor may get emergency immigration power.** A group of lawmakers on Thursday, August 25, said they will introduce legislation giving Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger the power to declare a state of emergency along the state's border with Mexico, calling illegal immigration a growing threat to public safety. The news conference by four Southern California legislators came as Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez traveled to Mexico to meet with Mexican President Vicente Fox to discuss immigration and other border issues. Last week, Nunez called on Schwarzenegger to declare a state of emergency to combat illegal border crossings, as the Democratic governors of Arizona and New Mexico have recently done. Assemblyman Ray Haynes, R-Temecula, described how his constituents in San Diego county — many of whom live within five miles of the U.S.-Mexico border — are routinely exposed to the problems of illegal border crossings. State law currently allows the governor to call a state of emergency for events such as war, epidemics, natural disasters and "local emergencies," a category that is defined broadly.

Source: http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=47922

12. *August 26, Tucson Citizen (AZ)* — **Tucson might become inland port.** A Sea of Cortez-to-Tucson link is being promoted as a way for cargo ships to bypass crowded California ports. Cargo arriving in Guaymas, Sonora, would be offloaded onto rail cars and sent north about 300 miles to Tucson, where it would get directed to its final location. Augie Garcia, director of the city's Tucson-Mexico Trade Office, has been working for years to try to position Tucson as an inland port. Because it lies at the junction of major highway and railroad lines running east to west and south into Mexico, Tucson could benefit by becoming a transfer point

for products coming in from Asia. Garcia said his office is getting ready to hire a consultant to put together a strategic plan for the Puerto Nuevo project and to study the possibility of forming a port authority. Periodic logjams at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, which handle about 40 percent of all imports from ships, have shipping companies looking for other options. Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup, Port of Guaymas general director José Luis Iberri and Garcia signed an agreement last week in support of the development of a commercial corridor between Guaymas and Tucson.

Source: http://www.tucsoncitizen.com/index.php?page=business&story_id=082605a1_port

13. *August 26, Department of Transportation* — **DOT orders Kinder Morgan to address rise in pipeline incidents.** The Department of Transportation's (DOT) Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on Friday, August 26, announced it has ordered Kinder Morgan Energy Partners (KMEP) to address a recent increase in incidents along its hazardous liquids pipeline system. The agency issued a Corrective Action Order requiring KMEP to comprehensively address integrity threats along the entire 3,900-mile Pacific Operations unit. The order requires a thorough analysis of recent incidents, a third-party independent review of operations and procedural practices, and a restructuring of KMEP's internal inspection program. KMEP must have a revised integrity management plan approved by PHMSA within 120 days. Failure to comply may result in an assessment of civil penalties of as much as \$100,000 per day. Since January 1, 2003, KMEP has experienced at least 44 accidents with some 14 resulting in the release of more than five barrels of refined petroleum products, some in or near environmentally sensitive areas or major transportation corridors. Recent PHMSA investigations of these accidents, and reviews of KMEP's operations and procedures, prompted the agency Order requiring KMEP to apply technologies and procedures to help evaluate its pipelines, Gerard said.
- Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/phmsa0205.htm>

14. *August 26, Click2Houston.com (TX)* — **Security breach halts air traffic at Houston airport.** Air traffic was grounded for more than an hour at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, TX, Thursday, August 25, after two women slipped through a metal detector at Terminal C that was not being used, said Roger Smith, spokesman for the Houston airport system. "We really don't know if they intentionally made a security breach," he said. "It could have been because of confusion." Travelers waiting in Terminal C were evacuated about 15 minutes later after airport officials observed the incident on the airport's video surveillance system. K-9 units were called in to search the terminal. The evacuation affected 11 flights and about 1,100 passengers, who were screened a second time before reentering the airport. It prompted a "gate hold" in which no flights took off, and passengers on arriving flights were not allowed to deplane. Using the process of elimination, all areas of the airport were searched, but the women were not found. Smith said nothing suspicious was found.
- Source: <http://www.click2houston.com/news/4899596/detail.html?subid=22100412&q=1:bp=t>

15. *August 25, USA TODAY* — **Northwest considers making temp workers permanent.** As Northwest Airlines continues to improve on-time performance, the airline may be moving closer to making permanent its temporary 1,500-member workforce. The U.S.'s No. 4 carrier isn't talking about timing, or even if it would go ahead with replacing at least some of the 4,400 striking members of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA). But management

has maintained from the beginning that the replacements may become permanent employees. No talks are scheduled as the strike enters its seventh day today. Northwest is seeking \$1.1 billion in annual union concessions by this fall, including \$176 million a year from AMFA. "They can't wait forever" to make replacement workers permanent, says Philip Baggaley of credit-rating agency Standard & Poor's. Baggaley says it's not an easy decision. Management could bring some closure to its festering dispute with mechanics, permitting it to push ahead with negotiations for concessions from other unions. Operations chief Andy Roberts said in an interview that the airline is operating "very well," with a low rate of cancellations and good on-time performance.

Source: <http://www.usatoday.com/travel/news/2005-08-25-northwest-usa t x.htm>

16. *August 25, New York Times* — **Race is on for cellular system for the subway.** The decision to introduce cell phone service in the city's underground subway stations touched off a flurry of interest in the telecommunications industry yesterday, as the Metropolitan Transportation Authority began soliciting bids for a 10-year contract that will involve immense technical complexity and probably be worth \$50 million to \$100 million. A new system would allow cell phone and Internet use below ground. Representatives of the country's four largest wireless companies – Cingular Wireless, Verizon Wireless, Sprint Nextel and T-Mobile – all said yesterday that they were considering submitting proposals to build the wireless voice and data network, which will cover 277 of the city's 468 stations. Companies that make wireless hardware – cables, radios and antennas – also expressed interest. Bids are due on Oct. 12. A 35-page request for proposals, which was released on Tuesday, the same day the authority announced a \$212 million contract with the Lockheed Martin Corporation to create an electronic surveillance system, outlines the shape of the proposed wireless network, but many financial and operational details have not been worked out.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/08/25/nyregion/25phones.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

17. *August 25, Northwest Arkansas Times* — **Emergency groups stage biohazard evacuation drill at postal facility.** Arkansas' Washington County Emergency Management Department, along with other response agencies and authorities, staged a biohazard evacuation exercise at 4 p.m. on Thursday, August 25, at the Postal Services Northwest Arkansas Plant and Distribution facility, in Fayetteville. The exercise is designed to familiarize postal workers and local response teams with evacuation procedures in the event of a biohazard alert and also to integrate postal officials with local, state and federal response agencies for emergency situations.

Source: <http://nwanews.com/story.php?paper=nwat§ion=News&storyid=31545>

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Agriculture Sector

18.

August 27, Farmscape — **Western Canada braces for elevated fusarium contamination in feed grains.** The University of Alberta warns this summer's combination of abundant rain and warm temperatures means livestock producers will need to be on alert for potentially elevated levels of fusarium graminearum infection in feed grains. Fusarium head blight is a fungal infection that primarily affects cereal crops. Fusarium graminearum, the strain of particular concern, is present throughout Manitoba and into Eastern Saskatchewan with the Red River Valley tending to face the highest risk. University of Alberta Feed Industry Chair Ruurd Zijlstra says the main concern among livestock producers is vomitoxin. "Vomitoxin can be very toxic especially to pigs but also to other livestock species." He suggests, "For this particular compound, we could expect very drastic reductions in productivity starting with reductions in feed intake and very drastic reductions in growth performance." Zijlstra recommends, "The main precaution is to be sure you're aware of the levels or potential levels of vomitoxin in the feed. There is not a bullet proof system in place by which you can guarantee a lack of risk."

Source: [http://www.farmscape.com/f2ShowScript.aspx?i=21779&q=Western+Canada+Braces+for+Elevated+Fusarium+Contamination+in+Feed+G rains](http://www.farmscape.com/f2ShowScript.aspx?i=21779&q=Western+Canada+Braces+for+Elevated+Fusarium+Contamination+in+Feed+G+rains)

19. *August 27, Associated Press* — South Florida farmers survey damage left by Katrina.

Growers in farming areas of South Florida spent Saturday, August 27, surveying the unexpected damage of Hurricane Katrina, whose 80 mph sustained winds hurled ripening avocados off fruit trees, uprooted plants, and thrashed shade houses. Terence McElroy, spokesperson for Florida Agriculture and Consumer Services Commissioner Charles Bronson, said Saturday the damage appears extensive, but estimates won't be available for several days. The nursery business is the largest segment of Florida's agriculture industry, and Miami-Dade's \$400 million in operations make it the top nursery county. McElroy said recovery efforts were doubly complicated by power outages that could prevent farmers from caring for the crops that weren't destroyed. "There are a good number of plants that weren't deluged, and you won't be able to water those things. They'll stand in the heat," he said.

Source: http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/local/southflorida/sfl-0827_katrinafarmers%2C0%2C6871416.story?coll=sfla-home-headlines

20. *August 26, Sampson Independent (NC)* — Cucumber downy mildew threatens crops.

Downy Mildew has returned to North Carolina as the same aggressive problem experienced in 2004. The disease was first identified on cucumbers in a field near Beulaville in early July. Since that time, downy mildew has spread to nearly every cucumber field observed by Allan Thornton, Cooperative Extension. In addition to cucumber, late season watermelons have been affected by downy mildew. The disease is becoming more and more of a force to be reckoned with in cucurbit production. The only good news in 2005 is that downy mildew came in after most of the spring crop was completed in North Carolina. Downy mildew has been reported along the east coast from Florida to New Jersey in 2005. Downy mildew moves in air masses, similar to blue mold in tobacco. This allows the disease to move great distances and "shower" spores over large areas.

Downy Mildew Forecast System: <http://www.ces.ncsu.edu/depts/pp/cucurbit/>

Source: http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?BRD=1117&dept_id=132328&newsid=15094376&PAG=461&rft=9

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Food Sector

21. *August 26, Food and Drug Administration* — **Basil recalled.** The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is advising processors and repackers that Majestic International Spice Corporation of Montebello, CA, is voluntarily recalling its dried “Extra Fancy Basil” spice in 12.5 kilogram bags because FDA found the product contaminated with Salmonella Blockley. Salmonella is a well-known cause of both outbreaks and sporadic disease in various parts of the world and as such poses a potential health threat. FDA is issuing this advisory because we are concerned that the firm has not adequately alerted its consignees to the problem. Salmonella is a microorganism that can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. In rare circumstances, infection with Salmonella can result in the microorganism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses such as arterial infections, endocarditis, and arthritis. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem. The contamination was noted after routine testing by FDA revealed the presence of Salmonella Blockley. The recall was the result of the FDA sampling. The company has ceased the distribution of the product in question.

Source: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/answers/2005/ans01365.html>

22. *August 24, Food and Drug Administration* — **Beans recalled.** Allison's Gourmet Kitchens of Moore, OK, is recalling BBQ Beans, because it has a potential to be contaminated with Listeria monocytogenes, an organism which can cause serious and sometimes fatal infections in young children, frail or elderly people, and others with weakened immune systems. The recalled product was distributed to retail and food service outlets in Illinois, Oklahoma, and Texas. No illnesses have been reported to date in connection with this problem. The recall is the result of routine testing of finished product. Allison's Gourmet Kitchens has ceased the production and distribution of the product until the source of the possible contamination can be determined.

Source: http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/allison08_05.html

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Water Sector

23. *August 27, Arizona Republic* — **States work out water plan.** The seven Colorado River states have agreed on a blueprint to deal with drought and future water shortages but left key issues unresolved. The proposals are aimed at protecting cities from shortages if drought leaves the Colorado unable to meet demands fully. The pact calls for still-unspecified plans to spread shortages among all users. But keeping peace on the river will likely hinge on satisfying Nevada, which has nearly exhausted its Colorado River apportionment and wants to draw water from the Virgin River, a tributary of the Colorado. States on the upper river object, calling the plan a back-door attempt to add to Nevada's legal share of water. To avoid a showdown on that issue, the states pledged to work on finding alternative sources of water that could replace the Virgin River supply. Those alternatives would have to be in place by 2012, when Nevada says it will run out of existing resources. If the dispute lands in court, it will drag Arizona with it, jeopardizing as much as half of the water that flows to Phoenix and Tucson through the Central Arizona Project Canal. The upper river states have also raised questions about Arizona's use of

tributaries, in-state rivers that, like the Virgin, flow into the Colorado.

Source: http://www.azcentral.com/arizonarepublic/news/articles/0827s_evenstates27.html

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Public Health Sector

24. *August 27, Agence France Presse* — Laos urged to prepare for human version of bird flu.

The World Health Organization (WHO) said it has urged Laos to prepare for an outbreak of a strain of bird flu that has killed nearly 60 people in three of its neighboring countries. Laos reported some cases of bird flu in poultry in 2003 but has not recorded any in humans, who can die from the HN51 version of the virus. "There are no known human cases of avian influenza in Laos that we are aware of," the acting WHO representative in Laos, Dean Shuey said. Nonetheless he had met the country's health official to urge them to prepare for a human pandemic, he said. Bird flu has killed 42 people in Vietnam, 12 in Thailand and four in Cambodia — countries which border Laos. Three Indonesians have also died of the virus.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050827/hl_afp/healthflulaos_050827210204;_ylt=AinOpy1Kz7yoXl_fOtr_hFOJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

25. *August 27, Agence France Presse* — Vietnam capital warned of renewed bird flu threat.

Vietnam's capital has been warned that 50 percent of water fowl transported into the city and 10 percent of those being raised there have tested positive for bird flu, state press reported. Last year, all of Vietnam's 64 provinces and cities were hit by bird flu but the number of areas with fresh outbreaks has gradually reduced this year. Forty-two people have died of the disease in the world's worst-hit country. The agriculture and rural development service has asked city authorities to vaccinate all poultry and water fowl in Hanoi, totalling some 4.2 million.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050827/hl_afp/healthfluvietnam_050827210330;_ylt=AnjcTkgrIjToOLTbFAbnjM.JOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

26. *August 26, Agence France Presse* — Vietnam finds civets died of bird flu. Vietnam, badly hit by the deadly bird flu virus which has killed 42 people, said that three of its rare palm civets raised in a national park had died of H5N1 in the first such case. "One mother and two children of the endangered Owston's palm civets died in the same cage in June with a confirmation of H5N1 infection by a laboratory in Hong Kong," said Hoang Van Than, deputy director of the Cuc Phuong National Park in northern Ninh Binh province. Some chickens raised by farmers nearby had also succumbed to the virus while only three of the more than 20 civets raised in the park were infected, Than said. The Food and Agriculture Organisation's representative in Hanoi, Anton Rychener, said specialists were yet to fathom the extent to which bird flu had spread among other species.

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/afp/20050826/hl_afp/healthfluvietnam_050826134533;_ylt=Am5FkTWUnLHWmyJ0J9uu61qJOrgF;_ylu=X3oDMTBiMW04NW9mBHNIYwMIJVRPUCU

27. *August 26, Seattle Times (WA)* — Officials issue measles alert. A man returning from a trip to

France earlier this month may have spread measles at four Redmond, WA, locations, health officials said Thursday, August 25. The man, in his 40s, returned to the Seattle, WA, area August 8, but he was only contagious and exposed to the public for a few days, said Jeff Duchin, head of communicable diseases for Public Health Seattle & King County. The man is recovering and is no longer contagious, Duchin said. Measles is a potentially fatal disease that can cause pneumonia and brain swelling in some cases. Most people are not at risk of contracting the disease because they either were vaccinated or developed immunity after having measles as a child, officials said. Before a measles vaccine was developed in the early 1960s, the U.S. had about 500,000 reported cases and hundreds of deaths a year, Duchin said. But children now are vaccinated twice, and the disease is rare today.

Measles information: http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/diseases/submenu/sub_measles.htm

Source: http://seattletimes.nwsources.com/html/eastsidenews/200245289_0_measles26e.html

28. *August 26, Associated Press* — Michigan confirms three human West Nile virus cases.

Michigan health officials on Friday, August 26, confirmed the state's first three human cases of West Nile virus so far this year. That number could soon grow. The Department of Community Health is awaiting test results from several other potentially positive cases. Results are expected next week, health department spokesperson T.J. Bucholz said. Michigan health officials said 48 birds from 21 counties have tested positive for West Nile this year. Rates of infection in birds and mosquitoes submitted for tests have increased in the past two weeks, indicating a higher level of the virus in the state, officials said. Sixteen human cases of West Nile were reported in the state last year, although no one died from the virus. Two people died in 2003 and 51 in 2002, the virus's peak year in Michigan. The decline in the number of human cases over the past few years is largely due to improved immunity. People are believed to be immune to West Nile after they get it for the first time, and because most cases are mild and have no symptoms, many Michigan residents may have had the virus in previous summers and fought it off without realizing it.

Source: http://www.freep.com/news/statewire/sw120411_20050826.htm

29. *August 26, World Health Organization* — World Health Organization declares tuberculosis an emergency in Africa. The World Health Organization (WHO) Regional Committee for Africa comprising health ministers from 46 Member States has declared tuberculosis (TB) an emergency in the African region — a response to an epidemic that has more than quadrupled the annual number of new TB cases in most African countries since 1990 and is continuing to rise across the continent, killing more than half a million people every year. Globally, TB is second only to HIV/AIDS as a cause of illness and death of adults, accounting for nearly nine million cases of active disease and two million deaths every year. Although it has only 11 percent of the world's population, Africa accounts for more than a quarter of this global burden with an estimated 2.4 million TB cases and 540,000 TB deaths annually.

Tuberculosis information: <http://www.who.int/topics/tuberculosis/en/index.html>

Source: http://www.who.int/mediacentre/news/releases/2005/africa_eme_rgency/en/index.html

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Government Sector

Nothing to report.

Emergency Services Sector

30. *August 29, Telematics Journal* — **Louisiana conference displayed next-generation ambulance.** The American Medical Response (AMR) and the American Emergency Vehicles (AEV) displayed their prototype "ambulance of the future" at the EMS Expo held Thursday, August 25, through Saturday, August 27, in New Orleans, LA. The two companies jointly developed the concept vehicle as part of research on reducing safety risks in the ambulance industry and providing patients advanced care. The prototype is equipped with: a) external cameras and, inside the cab, a video monitor that helps medics avoid colliding with another vehicle or object, b) a device that changes red lights to green at appropriately equipped intersections, c) external lights alerting other motorists that medical treatment is underway on board the vehicle, d) a road safety "black box" on-board computer system that records vehicle speed, monitors the driver's safety behaviors and warns the driver about maneuvers that exceed pre-set safety parameters, e) in motion on-board mobile network gateway and global positioning system (GPS) tracking, f) Marvlis vehicle routing and mapping systems, g) wireless medical reporting that saves time, ensures accuracy and protects confidentiality in identifying patients, documenting treatment, and sharing data with hospital staff. For further detail on the EMS Expo:
<http://www.advancedrt.com/emsexpo/cp2005generalinfo.html>
Source: <http://www.telematicsjournal.com/content/newsfeed/4310.html>
31. *August 26, The Saratogian (NY)* — **Communications command vehicle unveiled in New York.** An all-in-one fire, emergency medical service (EMS) and police Mobile Communications Command vehicle was unveiled to the public on Thursday, August 25, in Milton, NY. The state-of-the-art vehicle will be capable of responding to the scene of a disaster or acts of terrorism to provide on-scene communications and command for all three units. "This will make it much easier for the ambulance, fire team and police to communicate in one spot," said Sergeant Tim Breen. The vehicle is set up in two sections: The back is a radio room with three sets of radios equipped with telephone service; the front of the vehicle has a meeting area and is equipped with an additional area to review crime scene videos and investigations. The Saratoga County mobile vehicle will be staffed and operated by the Saratoga County, NY, Sheriff's Office desk sergeants and desk officers.
Source: http://www.saratogian.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=15102756&BRD=1169&PAG=461&dept_id=17708&rfi=6
32. *August 25, WTVF (TN)* — **New operations center designed to improve emergency response time.** Thursday, August 25, Nashville, TN's, Office of Emergency Management (OEM) showed off what it calls Web Emergency Operations Center, or "Web EOC." The center, which OEM also calls its war room, includes a wall-sized computer display that can be used to show incoming emergency response data. The monitors allow OEM to access a live feed of Metro 911 calls, weather radar, hospital admissions and more. "We can use it for just about any type of situation you can think of," stated OEM director Richard Byrd. The system will allow emergency officials to react to emergency situations faster, and will also help them alert a community when there is a disaster in their area. The Web EOC took a year to build and was funded by a federal homeland security grant. The system will be used for the first time during

OEM's disaster drill at the end of September.

Source: <http://www.newschannel5.com/content/news/14035.asp>

- 33. August 23, *The Ecorsair (FL)* — Paramedic students learn to respond to terrorist attacks in Florida.** Conducted by the National Terrorism Preparedness Institute, the two-day weapons-of-mass-destruction (WMD) class held at the Pensacola, FL, Junior College is intended to give hands-on training to emergency medical technicians, paramedics, and nurses in the areas of patient triage, treatment and transportation in the event of exposure to WMDs. Students were shown the proper way to set up a triage tent, given quizzes on various chemicals that could be encountered, and shown equipment ranging from decontamination suits to breathing masks. The most engaging and hands-on training, however, were video-taped scenarios ranging from chemical attacks to train wrecks that students experienced with "Frankie," the college's human patient simulator. The simulator is a sophisticated training mannequin that allows students to practice their skills in certain scenarios that they would be unable to do on a living individual. Frankie breathes, has a pulse, his eyes dilate and blink, and he can even speak to students through a wireless microphone embedded in his body. Five years ago, first responders could dive headfirst into situations. Now, in the wake of terrorism, they must stand back and assess the possibility of chemical or biological weapon attacks when treating a patient.

Source: <http://www.ecorsair.com/media/paper692/news/2005/08/23/Feature/Paramedic.Students.Learn.To.Respond.To.Terrorist.Attacks-969525.shtml>

- 34. August 06, *Newsday (NY)* — Federally-sponsored chemical simulation in New York concludes.** Scientists and government officials performed a series of tests for six days over the course of three weeks in August designed to study the flow of airborne particles in a dense urban environment. The tests, sponsored in part by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), ran August 6 through August 26 with the release of neutral tracer gases in midtown Manhattan. Scientists monitored dispersal of the colorless, odorless gases using 80 air samplers positioned on rooftops and at street level. The tests also analyze airflow within tall buildings, and between the subway and the street. Tom Kiess, a program manager for DHS, acknowledged that the model was limited because it didn't include all variables that occur during a real biological or chemical attack, such as the disruption in pedestrian and vehicular traffic. However, he said the models would teach emergency crews "how to communicate so as to not stir up panic." Ultimately, scientists hope they can produce a computerized model of air flow patterns that could help authorities decide where to evacuate people and in which direction after a bioterrorist attack.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/printedition/newyork/nyc-nydril064373319aug06.0.2536531.story?coll=nyc-nynews-print>

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Information Technology and Telecommunications Sector

- 35. August 29, *Associated Press* — Two arrested in U.S. computer worm probe.** Authorities in Morocco and Turkey have arrested two people believed responsible for a computer worm that infected networks at U.S. companies and government agencies earlier this month. Farid Essebar, 18, was arrested in Morocco, while Atilla Ekici, 21, was arrested in Turkey on

Thursday, August 25, Louis M. Riegel, the FBI's assistant director for cyber crimes, said Friday. They will be prosecuted in those countries, Riegel said. Essebar wrote the code that attacked computers that run Microsoft operating systems and Ekici paid him for it, Riegel said. It's unclear they ever met, "but they certainly knew each other via the Internet," he said. Riegel said he does not know how much money changed hands. Microsoft and FBI officials also declined to estimate the monetary damage done by the Zotob worm and its variations. The worm disrupted computer operations in mid-August at several large news organizations, including The Associated Press, ABC, CNN, and The New York Times; such companies as heavy-equipment maker Caterpillar Inc.; and the federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement bureau.

Official FBI statement: http://www.fbi.gov/pressrel/pressrel05/zotob_release082605.htm

Source: http://cnn.netscape.cnn.com/ns/news/story.jsp?flok=FF-APO-PLS&idq=/ff/story/0001/20050826/1558760757.htm&related=off&ewp=ewp_news_computer_virus

36. *August 26, Secunia* — **Simpleproxy HTTP proxy reply format string vulnerability.** A vulnerability in simpleproxy potentially can be exploited by malicious people to compromise a vulnerable system. The vulnerability is caused due to a format string error when handling replies from a HTTP proxy and may be exploited to execute arbitrary code. Users should update to version 3.4.

Source: <http://secunia.com/advisories/16567/>

37. *August 26, Security Focus* — **Nokia Affix BTSRV device name remote command execution vulnerability.** Nokia Affix BTSRV is affected by a remote command execution vulnerability. An attacker can supply arbitrary commands through a device name and have them executed in the context of the service. This can lead to a complete compromise.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/bid/14672/info>

38. *August 26, BugTraq* — **HP Openview Network Node Manager (OV NNM) remote unauthorized access.** A potential vulnerability has been identified with Openview Network Node Manager (OV NNM). This vulnerability could be exploited remotely by an unauthorized user to gain privileged access. No patch is currently available.

Source: <http://www.securityfocus.com/archive/1/409370>

39. *August 26, TechWeb News* — **Trojan poses as plug and play patch.** A Trojan horse not connected to last week's Zotob blitz on vulnerable Windows 2000 PCs is taking advantage of the scare, security researchers said Friday, August 26, by posing as a patch against the Microsoft bug. A new variant of the Downloader Trojan presents itself as a patch for the vulnerability outlined in the MS05-039 bulletin Microsoft released earlier in August. That vulnerability was used by Zotob just days later to attack Windows 2000 machines, and may be used in the near future to break into some Windows XP systems.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=170100762>

40. *August 26, TechWeb News* — **Windows flaw may let hackers hide code from anti-virus scanners.** A flaw in how Windows handles entries in the all-important registry can be used by hackers to hide evidence of malicious code from a wide swath of commercial anti-virus and anti-spyware scanners, the SANS Internet Storm Center reported Friday, August 26.

Extra-long key entries (those greater than 254 characters) are mishandled by the Windows registry editor, and essentially "disappear" from view, as do others added to the key after that because the editor stops at that too-long key, thinking it is the last in the section. Worse, many malicious code scanners have a similar blind spot, and also stop processing the registry for anomalous entries when they come to a too-long key. The technique would let attackers add their malicious software to the "Run" registry key which lists the programs or components that automatically launch at Windows' boot. The weakness, said Secunia, affects Windows 2000 and XP, including fully patched XP SP2 systems.

Source: <http://www.techweb.com/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=170100835>

41. *August 24, Government Computer News* — **Department of Justice, FBI to spur information sharing.** The FBI and Justice Department plan to accelerate their efforts to consolidate systems and improve sharing of information needed for criminal investigations and prosecutions by launching two major IT projects. The FBI project, known as Next Generation IAFIS, is aimed at upgrading the Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System run by the bureau's National Crime Information Center in Clarksburg, WV. Next Generation IAFIS is intended to improve the efficiency of IAFIS' function of matching fingerprint evidence to the bureau's trove of millions of sets of 10-finger images, according to FBI officials and procurement documents. Next Generation IAFIS will also interact with the IDENT fingerprint database run by the Department of Homeland Security's U.S. Visitor and Immigrant Status Indicator Technology system. Justice's Litigation Case Management System (LCMS) project is intended to promote information sharing among the 94 U.S. attorneys' offices and six major divisions at headquarters that bring cases to court. As it stands now, the U.S. attorneys' offices have litigation case management systems that link poorly or not at all with one another and with headquarters systems.

National Crime Information Center: <http://www.fbi.gov/hq/cjisd/iafis.htm>

Department of Justice: <http://www.usdoj.gov/>

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/security/36759-1.html

42. *August 24, Open Source Vulnerability Database* — **mplayer video file audio header strf overflow.** A remote overflow exists in mplayer. The product fails to properly calculate the length of a buffer used in decoding audio streams, resulting in a heap overflow. With a specially crafted media file, an attacker can cause execution of arbitrary code in the context of the user resulting in a loss of confidentiality or integrity. Users should upgrade to version 1.0pre7try2 or higher. An upgrade is required as there are no known workarounds.

Source: http://www.osvdb.org/displayvuln.php?osvdb_id=19019

Internet Alert Dashboard

DHS/US-CERT Watch Synopsis

Over the preceding 24 hours, there has been no cyber activity which constitutes an unusual and significant threat to Homeland Security, National Security, the Internet, or the Nation's critical infrastructures.

US-CERT Operations Center Synopsis: A number of new vulnerabilities and

exploits were reported in the last 48 hours. Recommend Administrators review those listed below and take appropriate action to preclude exploitation.

US-CERT has learned that a new version of Download Trojan Horse, posing as a Microsoft update for MS05-039 (currently being exploited by Zotob) is attempting to take advantage of the scare to get loaded on systems (see Malicious Activity below).

A flaw in the way Windows handles entries in the registry can be used by hackers to hide evidence of malicious code from a wide swath of commercial anti-virus and anti-spyware scanners.

Current Port Attacks

Top 10 Target Ports	6881 (bittorrent), 445 (microsoft-ds), 9596 (----), 1026 (----), 4004 (pxc-roid), 135 (epmap), 6346 (gnutella-svc), 139 (netbios-ssn), 6257 (WinMX), 7577 (----) Source: http://isc.incidents.org/top10.html ; Internet Storm Center
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To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Website: www.us-cert.gov.

Information on IT information sharing and analysis can be found at the IT ISAC (Information Sharing and Analysis Center) Website: <https://www.it-isac.org/>.

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Commercial Facilities/Real Estate, Monument & Icons Sector

Nothing to report.

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General Sector

43. *August 29, Reuters* — New Orleans evacuated in anticipation of Hurricane Katrina. The fringes of potentially catastrophic Hurricane Katrina began whipping Louisiana on Sunday, August 29, and about one million people fled the low-lying New Orleans area, which sat in the storm's path. The brunt of Katrina, which had 160-mph winds on Sunday evening, was expected to crash ashore around sunrise on Monday. Its winds, tides and heavy squalls had already started arriving before nightfall. The storm had weakened slightly from the morning, when it boasted 175-mph (282-kph) winds, but it remained a Category 5 storm on the five-step Saffir-Simpson scale. An estimated 1 million of the area's 1.3 million people were believed to have evacuated, emergency officials said. Mayor Ray Nagin, appearing on "Larry King Live" on CNN, said by Sunday night about 25,000 people had gathered in unable or unwilling to flee had piled into the Louisiana Superdome, New Orleans' enclosed sports stadium. "This is an unprecedented storm with incredible power," said Nagin, whose city mostly sits below sea level and is protected by levees not designed to withstand the potential surge Katrina could deliver. Mississippi and Alabama also braced for impact as the wide hurricane was forecast to push a 20-foot surge of seawater into the tourist community of Gulfport, MS.

National Weather Service Weather Radar:

<http://radar.weather.gov/radar/latest/DS.p37cr/si.klix.shtml>

National Hurricane Center Public Advisory:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/text/refresh/MIATCPAT2+shtml/232359.shtml>

National Hurricane Center Track Map:

<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/ftp/graphics/AT12/refresh/AL1205W5+GIF/1A.gif>

Source: [http://olympics.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=topNe](http://olympics.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2005-08-29T040654Z_01_HO481242_RTRIDST_0_NEWS-WEATHER-KATRINA-DC.XML)

[ws&storyID=2005-08-29T040654Z_01_HO481242_RTRIDST_0_NEWS-WEATHER-KATRINA-DC.XML](http://olympics.reuters.com/news/NewsArticle.aspx?type=topNews&storyID=2005-08-29T040654Z_01_HO481242_RTRIDST_0_NEWS-WEATHER-KATRINA-DC.XML)

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Contact DHS

To report physical infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact the National Infrastructure Coordinating Center at nicc@dhs.gov or (202) 282-9201.

To report cyber infrastructure incidents or to request information, please contact US-CERT at soc@us-cert.gov or visit their Web page at www.us-cert.gov.

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